

The Sun.

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If our friends who favor us with manuscripts and illustrations for publication will have rejected articles returned they must in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

Perhaps Not "Inexplicable."

Recording the fact that a number of delegates to the Constitutional Convention are expected to resign in order that other citizens may take their places, the *World* informs us that there is "no law for filling vacancies," and it adds:

"The law governing the selection of delegates to the Constitutional Convention, for some inexplicable reason, does not provide any method for filling vacancies caused by the death or resignation of the persons selected in November."

We are also assured that "the failure of the referendum to specifically stipulate the manner in which vacancies should be filled is attributed by Democratic legislative leaders who jammed it through to an oversight," and the community is warned in all the fearlessness of black type that:

"This omission, slight as it appears to be, is likely to result advantageously to both party machines and to corporate influences that will undoubtedly seek favors of an affirmative and negative character at the hands of the convention."

Fortunately for the peace of the State, the failure of the law "for some inexplicable reason" to provide for "filling vacancies caused by the death or resignation of the persons selected in November," the "oversight" of the legislative leaders, this "omission" of such sinister import will not affect the validity of the credentials of those who eventually compose the convention. Section 2 of Article XIV. of the Constitution now in force, providing for "future constitutional conventions; how called; election of delegates; compensation; quorum; submission of amendments; officers; rules; vacancies; taking of feet," contains these sentences:

"In case of a vacancy, by death, resignation, or other cause, of any district delegate elected to the convention, such vacancy shall be filled by a vote of the remaining delegates representing the district in which such vacancy occurs."

"If such vacancy occurs in the case of a delegate at large, such vacancy shall be filled by a vote of the remaining delegates at large."

Is it not possible that the explanation of the "inexplicable reason" which caused the Legislature not to provide for filling vacancies in the Constitutional Convention may be found in the fact that the Constitution itself already covered that important detail completely?

The Stars Together.

There are indications that the so-called all star cast will be a notable feature of the present season's last weeks, as there are already announced two of these performances. Naturally there are only old plays to exhibit the talents of these experienced actors; so it is the combination of numerous well known players that is supposed to draw the public.

Otherwise no commercial manager of experience would think of engaging a lot of actors without drawing powers by themselves to appear together in the belief that the public would care to see them simultaneously on the same stage. It is the instinct of the bargain hunter on which the managers rely in such cases. This is more than ever true since an all star cast as it is called is less a matter of "Who's Who" in the theatre than "Who Was Who."

The actors for these aggregations of celebrities are engaged not because of their fitness for certain parts in the first case. It is usually because there is no certainty that the acting will be any better on such gala occasions than it is when there is but an ordinary collection of players. Connoisseurs in the art of acting, who must find precious little nowadays to interest them, think that so many distinguished players do not always tend to assure greater skill in the acting. They are rarely willing to subject their personal efforts to shine to the effectiveness of the ensemble.

So it is rather as a holiday for the bargain hunter than as a purely artistic essay in the highest type of histrionism that the all star casts have come to be regarded by those lovers of good acting who seek it in the theatres with a success that varies from time to time. But this

springtime excursion of the managers into the domain of the stars, past, present and future, contrives to add interest to the closing nights of the season even if the programmes are sometimes likely to impart to the audience the impression that they are wandering in their sleep through the hospitable halls of the Actors Fund Home or the Forrest Home.

Credit to the Deserving.

While Governor WHITMAN formally accepted responsibility for the charges of malfeasance and misfeasance in office on which four Public Service Commissioners of this district were heard by him in Albany yesterday, it is not to be assumed that he indited with his own hand the specifications on which they were based. An incident of the hearing yesterday supplies a clue to their authorship which we are sure will prove of great interest to all students of contemporary affairs. We transcribe from THE EVENING SUN:

"Charge five is so palpably unjustified and so maliciously false that I am surprised it was incorporated here," shouted Mr. McCall. "Of all men on earth, you, Governor, know that I held a special term of the Criminal Court for your personal request."

"That's right," said the Governor, interrupting. "Then I demand at your hands the immediate dismissal of this charge. I am most indignant at this because it is so unfair."

We submit that this refutation of charge five, supported by the frank corroboration voluntarily furnished by Governor WHITMAN, points unmistakably to the genius who imagined the statistics incorporated in the Governor's financial message of February 24 as the individual who corroborated this accusation against Edward E. McCall, and we are confident that all our readers will be glad to see this public and unsolicited attribution of credit to him.

Zoological Politics.

It is rather disheartening to the friends of good manners even in politics that Editor BRYAN should feel called upon to say that the president of the Investment Bankers Association of America is "running for a prize in the contest of astuteness." Still, even in this blunt opinion a certain improvement and enlargement of Editor BRYAN's mentality is noticeable. He has seen a good deal of light, for him, if he is willing to classify a banker with harmless necessary Brother Longears instead of with the hosts of prey.

Regrettable it is that the representative of Predatory Wealth is not pleased and edified by this evidence, small as it is, of a softening of Editor BRYAN's austerity. No, the plutocrat turns savagely from Editor BRYAN to Secretary BRYAN and insists that the country has felt that in the "astuteness" race, Cremo of Chautauqua was "the sole entrant"; and at any rate "has outdistanced" all possible competitors.

It is no pleasure to analyze these passion flowers of speech; but in the defense of scientific truth and sound political zoology we remind the erring plutocrat that a man who makes other people do the work for which he gets \$12,000 a year and meanwhile fattens an already gorged bank account with the receipts of many box offices—untaxed—is not to be compared, even if comparisons could be deodorized, with innocent, though to be sure, corrupt, Jack Bray. His analogue is Brer Fox.

Factors of Confidence.

Signs of spring are appearing everywhere than in the air and skies and on the surface of the earth. The season of reviving hopefulness is bringing with it omens of other than customary encouragement. Clouds of war, dark, thick and heavy, hang above Europe, but the pall which they have cast over the rest of the world is lightening. Our own business and finance are beginning to emerge from the shadow of it and are stirring with new life.

Very evidently the fearful conflict abroad is no longer the reason that it was for holding American trade and industry in check, keeping volumes contracted and values depressed. On the contrary the war itself is supplying factors for a return of confidence which must be reflected in recovery of prosperous activities.

Engagements of gold aggregating \$7,300,000 for importation from Ottawa were announced during banking hours yesterday. This made the total for the first few days of the week almost \$11,000,000, and brought the gold imports for the year up to not far from \$40,000,000. Actually our bankers do not want gold to come in, but they cannot keep it out. It is coming faster now than it went away last autumn and our international financial position is gaining strength with astonishing rapidity. The course of the foreign exchanges is prophetic of still greater strength.

A month ago demand sterling fell to 479. This week, after holding a moderate rally during the interval, it dropped to 478, an unheard of quotation for the pound sterling in terms of dollars and cents, but exchange on London is only moving in the same direction as exchange on all other foreign centres. We have been accustomed to regard proudly the domestic banking power which the country has long possessed. Here is proof that we are developing a world banking power, the consequences of which for our business future cannot now be calculated.

The official report of the country's foreign trade for February, which was published yesterday, corroborates the story of the foreign exchanges. Exports for the month were about \$100,000,000 above the largest previous

February total. The balance of exports over imports was almost \$174,000,000, or more than two times the former February record, made in 1908. When the fiscal year ends in June the footing of the trade balance promises to be a billion and a quarter dollars, or about twice any trade balance in our history.

There is nothing in all this to cause men of affairs to cast caution to the wind and press recklessly forward into the unknown and unknowable future when the world's greatest war is waging. There is, nevertheless, warrant in it for expecting general business to do better in the coming months.

Already, indeed, the effects of the direct advantages which the war has brought to many lines are being communicated to others. Apart from that the seasonal influences of spring are operating for improvement, and agricultural prospects, which are indispensable in any reckoning of the business outlook, are excellent. The largest acreage of winter wheat ever planted has come along well, and a record breaking area of spring wheat will come under cultivation.

Last, but not least, the more hopeful signs of the times may be read in the Wall Street stock market. There was more business in stocks yesterday than on any day since the Stock Exchange reopened last December. The market was broad in proportion to its activity and prices rose impressively throughout the list. Speculation, the commentators say, is doing all this, but there is no speculation when the spirit of enterprise is dead and when there is nothing to look forward to in the field of values.

The Future of Constantinople.

While Sir EDWARD GREY's reply in the House of Commons to a question about the future of Constantinople indicated that the Government recognized the claims of Russia, the speaker did not commit himself; and he could not very well do so, for the status of Constantinople will have to be settled by the victors in the war—there will be no Berlin Conference this time. The victors will not be Germany and her allies, is now discussing what shall be done with Constantinople after it has been wrested from the Turk. There is a very general feeling that byones should be byones and that the title should pass to Russia.

The *Spectator* gives the Turkish capital to Russia without political conditions, and not entirely for sentimental reasons; in fact, as England would profit by the freest trade relations with southern Russia, the elimination of the Turk as the guardian of the straits is a consummation to be wished. If England were at war with some other Power, Russia remaining neutral, it would be advantageous to import grain and other foodstuffs from the Black Sea region; and it would be highly satisfactory to have as an ally in war a strong nation in possession of Constantinople. The rivalry of Russia as a naval Power in the Mediterranean is not touched on. In Dr. RAUL's day it would have been considered a famous policy to permit a Russian fleet to come out of the Sea of Marmara; as well as abandon the Suez Canal and haul down the flag in India! But today Russia and England are in agreement about their respective interests in Persia, and the spectre of an invasion of India by way of Afghanistan has been laid. Besides, England has taken over Cyprus absolutely, and converted into a naval base Cyprus would command the Suez Canal.

Furthermore, Russia is a sixth rate sea Power, and must divide what vessels she has in the west between the Baltic and the Mediterranean. Her navy can never be a menace to England in the Mediterranean, particularly as England may count upon the support of both France and Italy, which have extensive colonies in Africa, to keep Russian policy within bounds. Indeed, it may be said that sea power thus exerted would determine the status of Russia as proprietor of Constantinople so far as her interests in the Mediterranean were concerned; those interests would be chiefly commercial. England has nothing to fear, and much to gain as a business nation, by transfer of title from the Sublime Porte to the Czar's Government.

A Paris Journal, *Excelsior*, calls for reprisals against the authors for the Zepplin attacks on Paris. "Up to the present," it says, "we and our allies have abstained, through a spirit of civility and humanity, from striking at German cities," but "nothing would be easier" than so to strike. If the French are wise, they will continue to leave the Germans to their ineffective, stupid and inhuman mode of warfare. It accomplishes no military purpose. Its usual triumphs are only the maiming or slaughter of a few non-combatants. It seems more like the play of savage children than like the action of a civilized nation. Let us be charitable to look at it, if any charity is elastic enough to go so far, as to regard it as a study in aerial massacre. To imitate is to excuse the inexcusable.

There is no sex in crime—County Judge LAWRENCE of Brooklyn.

Unless the crime happens to be murder. Or has murder ceased to be a crime?

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FRANCIS JOSEPH TO THE AUSTRIAN CHILDREN.

The Aged Emperor's Letter Asking the Prayers of the Innocent.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: At a moment when all Austrian hearts are beating with anxiety, when the gallant and prolonged defense of Przemyśl, according to Petrograd, at last has been beaten down and the fair Austrian country is being exposed to the savage incursions of the Cossacks, may I, as a sincere and deeply attached friend of Austria-Hungary, offer to my countrymen a translation of the beautiful and touching letter which the Emperor Francis Joseph recently addressed to the children of his lands? Perhaps, as the aged monarch seems to think, the letters of the innocent may preserve the country from all danger. That this may indeed be so is the heartfelt wish of

CLARE HENDRICK.

LAKEWOOD, N. J., March 23.

Translation of the Emperor Francis Joseph's Letter.

To the Dear Children of Our Empire: If, on the threshold of the grave, I have still time to turn to you, my beloved children, it is for more than one reason. Once you were the joy, the consolation—yes, often the light of my life—the only joy of my old age—your Emperor-King. When I saw you a sunbeam fell once again across my life. I thought of the children of my kingdom, the flowers of my peoples, the blessing of the future.

But it is not only to your Emperor-King that you are nearest, but to One before Whom the mightiest of this world are humbled. In the light of the creation, in your eyes the light of the world is still shining, and you are still in Paradise—in still Heaven. God is all powerful, in His hand lies the fate of all peoples. Everything bows to His will, by Him the stars and mountains are directed. That this Almighty God may guide and bless our Austria-Hungary, giving her the victory over her many enemies and strengthening her in victory to the honor and glory of God—this is the only wish which remains to me after a life rich in calamity. It was my wish to be a father to you, and I am now your father—so young and full of hope—it will be the wish which perhaps will soon be on my dying lips as the last word of love and care for my realm and for my people.

May God direct all things as He wills, we human beings can do nothing without Him. You, dear children, stand nearest to God, your Emperor-King begs you to pray that He may bless us and bestow His grace upon our cause. God grants the prayers of innocence, because He loves them. He recognizes in it His own image. Therefore cease not to pray with clasped hands, and with a pure heart, and you smallest ones of all.

If the children of the realm pray for their Fatherland, I know that they will be well with our star. Then you will have a part in the day of victory and honor of the Empire. You have called for the blessing upon our colors, upon our army.

Dear children, do not forget the empire to which—on earth—you belong, or its old Emperor.

"ENJOYING THINGS FINE."

A Hearty Letter From a Canadian Soldier at the Front.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: I enclose copy of a letter received by our regiment from the "Canadian" of the front. He went with the first contingent from Quebec last September. I draw your attention to sentence underlined.

NEW YORK, March 23.

Dear Bill, Well, Bill, if the "Canadians" are to be respected, they would be as well to attend to the fact that "The Canadians" in our midst, as that is our position at right angles as they are on three sides of us. Things are very quiet, and but for an occasional bullet singing on the outside and the big guns firing away from both sides there is nothing to report. The day is very warm, and we are all well. I am a bit of a duffer and have to stay down all day and only emerge after dark, as the heat is too much for me. I am a bit of a duffer and have to stay down all day and only emerge after dark, as the heat is too much for me. I am a bit of a duffer and have to stay down all day and only emerge after dark, as the heat is too much for me.

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WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION.

Question of Validity of Act Raised in Case on Appeal.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: A letter in THE SUN of July 23 raised the question of the validity of the reenactment, with amendment, of the workmen's compensation act that went through the Legislature at top speed in December, 1913, and came up unexpectedly in February, 1914, for reconsideration.

My argument was that the Legislature in 1914, by reenacting and amending the 1913 act (Chapter 514), did not give validity to the original act that was void, "of no more force or validity than a piece of blank paper."

That very July was one of the points raised and argued in a compensation case (White vs. New York Central & Hudson River R. Co.) before the Supreme Court, Appellate Division, in Albany on May 27. The brief said:

The act entitled "Workmen's Compensation Law" (Chapter 41, Laws 1913) is invalid, in that it attempts to reenact and amend Chapter 514, Laws 1913, which was enacted before the passage of Article 1, became a part of the Constitution of the State of New York.

Parts of the argument were:

If the act of 1913 was unauthorized by the Constitution of the State of New York, the act of 1914, which reenacted and amended the act of 1913, is also unauthorized. The reenacted act cannot have more force or validity than the act which it purports to amend.

The proper course for the Legislature to have pursued would have been to repeal the act of 1913, and then enact a new act, valid from the act of 1914.

We believe that this question is worthy of serious consideration as a controlling factor governing the determination of the validity of the act of 1914.

A renewed suggestion: Cut the tangle by enacting a brand new statute. The Legislature at the present session is in a mood to do the right thing for the compensation law.

The decision of the court? R. W. O. (Brooklyn, March 22.)

TARA HILL.

Further Examination of the Origin of the Name.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: May I be permitted to say that all intelligent students of ancient Irish history would be gratified to learn that the name Tara would say on what authority he made the statement that "the ancient Tara" (Tara) derives its name from being the burial place of a monarch of Ireland? She was the wife of Milesius, one of the first invaders of Ireland.

This seems to be utterly at variance with the opinion of Clarendon, and a half million barrels of beer. Assuming that this was drunk by fifty million people the daily per capita consumption was only one-third of a barrel of beer. It contains two-thirds of an ounce of alcohol, but it must be borne in mind that beer is rich in carbohydrates and proteins, and is a most nourishing food. Unlike ardent spirits, it is only incidentally and very mildly stimulating. Much of the beer made in this country contains only from 2 to 3 per cent of alcohol. The figures of alcohol given are based on an alcoholic content of 4 per cent. In a few cases this ratio may be exceeded, but it is a surprising fact that in the years the demand for beer, which has steadily increased, has been for those types which are rich in extract (food value) but low in alcohol.

Thus it is logical to infer that beer drinkers constitute a class by themselves. They are not attracted by the "kick" of spirits. They desire a normal taste for a beverage which quenches their thirst and at the same time supplies a considerable amount of nourishment and is derived from bread and meat. They do not drink it for the alcohol it contains. A gallon of 32 per cent beer has only about one-third of a gallon of alcohol. You will agree that there are mighty few people possessing the capacity to drink such a quantity daily. Yet it is only the equivalent of three or four drinks of whiskey.

If I have stated the facts correctly, and I believe I have, it is not unfair when discussing the "rum question" to say that the rum is a "kick" with liquor. I might expect that from the professional prohibition agitator whose livelihood depends upon denouncing, railing and abusing every body who has the temerity to advocate moderation and to oppose the complete prohibition of an industry in which hundreds of millions of dollars are invested. But I did not think that THE SUN would indulge so radical an attitude.

The brewing trade is to-day facing a most serious situation. Sixteen millions of barrels of beer have either failed or closed down. By January 1, 1916, seventy millions will have been forced out of business by the action of the prohibitionists. I have not yet read of a single distillery which has shut its doors. A small of beer containing 32 per cent of alcohol, and containing 100 per cent of water, costs from \$5 to \$10, and four quarts of whiskey can be bought for \$2 to \$3. There is no such alcohol in the market as that which is sold by the prohibitionists. It is a fact that prohibition is compelling the substitution of whiskey for beer in so-called "cocktails."

And would the distillers finally yield and can no longer move from State to State, as they did in the South and West? Will they finally be driven to the North? It will be discovered that a little, well-kept of rubber hose, a few gallons of molasses and a cake of yeast contain the complete cure for distillation still, which will produce whiskey for 10 cents a quart. Beer of course will become an obsolete drink. Is this the condition that the well balanced American wants to see brought about?

NEW YORK, March 19.

W. V. HUNTER.

Curiosity Excited by an Exemption From the Sullivan Bill.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: I observe that the so-called Sullivan Bill in the Assembly, while purporting to tax property, both real and personal, owned by "charitable and educational institutions," in the State, exemption or rather continues the present exemption enjoyed by "fraternal associations."

Why?

THOMAS F. WOODLOCK.
NEW YORK, March 23.

Grills or Drifts?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: The tone of discussion last night drifted to Southern matters. One of the guests said that "Down South," meaning Georgia, Florida and Alabama particularly, had been fed mostly on "grits," whatever that may mean. Another guest declared that "grits" are also called "grits," and that "grits" was wrong. He insisted that all Southerners say "grits."

In the memory of the immortal Beldams, please to note whether my guests have been eating "grits" or "grits."

NEWARK, N. J., March 23.

AS OLD NEW YORKER.

Man in His Foolishness, Woman in Her Weakness.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: By nature woman was made to be a willing slave to man, but man in his foolishness made laws giving weak women equality with men, causing it to be hard for men to find women to mate with.

A woman who is forward in talking with men is the best kind of woman. She should also be cunning.

What a lot of trouble is made by women who are shy to men by their disgusting ways. (Are they are good for is to look at and hate.)

JAMES AGAN.
PUTNAM, Conn., March 23.

GERMAN EFFICIENCY.

Has It Been Overrated as Compared With That of the Allies?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: We are all familiar with the stories of German efficiency usually dinned into our ears as if there was nothing so wonderful in the world. Now after several months of severe tests what is the sum total? Starting out on the minute with a jump on Belgium of supreme advantage, in theory at least, the machine which has reached the several objective points by this time, but there has been something wrong, and the answer is found partly in the keen analysis of a well known American who returned from Germany last fall. Being asked about the army he replied: "Yes, it is indeed a wonderful and efficient organization, but the trouble with such a complicated machine is that should it slip, a cog the darn thing will rattle itself to pieces."

It seems to me that a few cogs have slipped in the German machine, and Warsaw are all "slips." Only the other day a German officer, a prisoner, unburdened himself in saying: "With our system of work we can stay in Germany all day long. Within a week of the utterance four miles of trenches were taken at Neuve Chapelle by superior gun fire, machinery and manipulation coupled with certain human elements that somehow are indispensable."

We don't hear very much about the Allies' efficiency, but there isn't a German who can be so easily and so simply out of transport, commissariat, medical service, aerial activity, naval efficiency and cold steel. The Allies have more than held their own, and they have done it when you read that that dying Tommy who asked the Colonel if "he had done his little bit" received the assurance that he had done it.

"Thank you, sir, good night," a few of us wonder if all the wonderful German machine efficiency is not really overrated, and a reassurance read out of "The German Machine" by a man with keenness and alertness as evidenced in most of the colonial troops are not infinitely more valuable in the long run.

WILLIAM GILL.
DORCHESTER, Mass., March 22.

THE QUESTION OF ALCOHOL.

Is Prohibition Compelling Substitution of Whiskey for Beer?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Your editorial article on "Alcoholism and Life Expectancy" in today's issue is as scholarly and as well written as your editorials always are, but you will pardon me, who for thirty-five years have been one of your most appreciative readers, if I suggest that it was not written with a complete knowledge of the subject treated.

During the past year this country produced 1,000,000 barrels of beer, and a half million barrels of whiskey. Assuming that this was drunk by fifty million people the daily per capita consumption was only one-third of a barrel of beer. It contains two-thirds of an ounce of alcohol, but it must be borne in mind that beer is rich in carbohydrates and proteins, and is a most nourishing food. Unlike ardent spirits, it is only incidentally and very mildly stimulating. Much of the beer made in this country contains only from 2 to 3 per cent of alcohol. The figures of alcohol given are based on an alcoholic content of 4 per cent. In a few cases this ratio may be exceeded, but it is a surprising fact that in the years the demand for beer, which has steadily increased, has been for those types which are rich in extract (food value) but low in alcohol.

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